Christian Hebrew Printing in the Sixteenth Century: Printers, Humanism and the Impact of the Reformation *

Christian printers of Hebrew books have long been recognized as a crucial factor in the spread of Christian Hebraism in early modern Europe [1]. Their works have traditionally been listed together with Jewish books in bibliographies such as Moritz Steinschneider's catalogue of books on Hebrew language instruction, and the Bodleian library's collection Hebrew imprints [2] since both contain Hebrew type, but grouping them together also blurs their distinctive features. Yet the business of Hebrew printing for Christians differed in character from Jewish printing in a variety of ways [3].

1 Jerome Friedman, *The Most Ancient Testimony: Christian-Hebraica in the Age of Renaissance Nostalgia* (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1983), 36-38.

2 *Bibliographisches Handbuch über die theoretische und praktische Literatur für hebräische Sprachkunde* (1959; reprint: Hildesheim: Olms, 1976), and *Catalogus librorum Hebraeorum in Bibliotheca Bodleiana* (1852-60; reprint: Hildesheim: Olms, 1964). Yeshayahu Vinograd continues this practice in his *Thesaurus of the Hebrew Book*, 2 vols (Jerusalem: Institute for Computerized Bibliography, 1993-1995) [Hebrew].

3 See Alexandre Lorian, «L'imprimerie hébraïque 1470-1550: ateliers chrétiens et ateliers juifs» in: *Le Livre dans L'Europe de la Renaissance: Actes du xxviiie internationale d'Etudes humanistes de Tours*, ed. Pierre Aquilon and Henri-Jean Martin (Paris: Promodis, 1988), 219-229, and Stephen G. Burnett, *From Christian Hebraism to Jewish Studies: Johannes Buxtorf (1564-1629) and Hebrew Learning in the Seventeenth Century*, Studies in the History of Christian Thought, vol. 68 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1996), 39-47.